

CONFIDENTIAL
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

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133

COUNTRY China

DATE DISTR. 19 August 1948

SUBJECT Military and Economic Information: 1. Appointment of Soviet "Northeast Inspection Group" as Ordnance Factory Advisers
2. Scrap metal Drive, Harbin Area

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1. On 12 April 1948 a "Northeast Inspection Group" of about 1,000 Soviet citizens, dressed in blue worker's uniforms and wearing broad brim hats, passed through Manchouli (117-27,49-36) and Hailar (119-44,49-13). On 15 April they arrived in Harbin, where they were quartered in the building of a Soviet company on Kuosantao Street outside of the Taoli District. The members of this group were all technicians for light and heavy industry. the Soviet Consulate in Harbin detailed them to serve as advisers to some thirty large and small ordnance factories, which are under the supervision of the Chinese Communist General Ordnance Department in Harbin.

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Comment. For further related information on Soviet activities in Manchuria, see

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2. The majority of the large and small ordnance factories under the control of this department were formerly Manchukuo Government-owned or privately-owned factories. There are two ordnance factories which can repair anti-aircraft and field artillery pieces and four factories which can produce three 60 (mm) artillery pieces a day. The remainder of the ordnance factories manufacture ammunition, hand grenades and shell casings. Female workers are employed in the ordnance factories. Out of a total of 9,000 workers, about 1,500 are employed in the ammunition factory behind Shamantun Fifth Middle School in Harbin

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3. On 1 April 1948 the Harbin Municipal Government started a scrap metal drive to collect copper, iron, tin and lead for military use. An order was issued stating that private individuals could no longer buy or sell any metal except finished manufactured products. The villagers were encouraged to bring their scrap metal into Harbin and sell it to the municipal authorities at a reasonable price.

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